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IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

--The invention provides methods and systems for the use of an Intelligent Peripheral Concentrator (IPC) in a network that enables more efficient use of Ipe resources. In a ~~A~~ first exemplary embodiment is ~~a method of managing intelligent peripherals, where the IPC receives at least one request from at least one network element, determines necessary resources according to the request(s) and establishes a at least one connection with an at least one intelligent peripheral based on the necessary resources.~~ A second exemplary embodiment is a concentrator for connecting intelligent peripherals to a network, having ~~a at least one~~ connection point for connecting an intelligent peripheral, ~~a at least one~~ connection point for connecting to a network and ~~a at least one~~ switch for directing information from the network to the ~~at least one~~ intelligent peripheral. A third exemplary embodiment is a system for utilizing intelligent peripherals having ~~a at least one~~ device connected to a first ~~at least one~~ switch, the first ~~at least one~~ switch connected to a second ~~at least one other~~ switch, ~~at least one~~ an intelligent peripheral concentrator connected to the first ~~at least one~~ switch and the ~~at least one~~ intelligent peripheral connected to the ~~at least one~~ intelligent peripheral concentrator.--